(c) whether there is any possibility to grant permission to Kashmiri Pandits for visiting Sharda Mata Shrine in near future; and

(d) if so, the time-frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The visit of pilgrims between India and Pakistan is covered under the bilateral 'Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974'. The Protocol lists the names of shrines in both the countries for the visit of pilgrims and the 'Sharda Mata Temple' is not included in the list presently. During the talks between Prime Minister and President of Pakistan held on April 16-18, 2005, it was agreed to pursue further measures to enhance interaction and cooperation across the LoC including agreed meeting points for divided families, trade, pilgrimages and cultural interaction. It has been the endeavour of Government to expand the scope of the Protocol to enhance people to people contact between the two countries. It is not possible to give any time-frame in the matter.

India-Singapore MoU

232. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Singapore have signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the fears of Indian companies about Chinese goods entering India at concessional duty through Singapore has been allayed and if so, the safeguards adopted to protect the domestic industry from third country imports; and

(d) the extent to which this MoU would benefit India in boosting its trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) has been signed

between India and Singapore by Prime Ministers of two countries on 29th June, 2005 in New Delhi.

India-Singapore CECA is structured as an integrated package of several agreements concerning Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investments and Economic Cooperation in identified areas.

(c) Stringent Rules of Origin have been built into the Agreement to ensure that only products that are actually manufactured in India or Singapore benefit from preferential import duties.

(d) Singapore is a global trading hub and it is expected that CECA would be instrumental in developing supply chains from India. Mutual Recognition Agreements in Goods are expected to increase our exports in food products like milk, milk products, egg and poultry. Mutual Recognition Agreements of professional degrees would provide greater avenues to Indian professionals. CECA is expected to enhance Singapore's investments into india especially in the infrastructure sector. CECA is also likely to increase efficiency in the Indian industry and services.

Export of alphanso mango to China

†233. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted to export the 'Alphanso' variety of mango to China;

(b) whether it is also a fact that China intend to import grapes, pomegranate, lady finger, bitter gourd and other vegetables from India;

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating on according its sanction for the export thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) China has opened its market for import of Indian mangoes including the 'Alphanso' variety.

(b) to (e) Following a pest risk analysis, China has argreed to open its market for Indian grapes and bitter gourds. As a part of this process, the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.